



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Joël CROUZET *et al.*

Group Art Unit: 1643

Examiner: Unassigned

JAN 11 2000

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

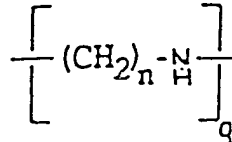
Sir:

SUPPLEMENTAL PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Before examination of this application on the merits, kindly enter the following amendment.

In the Specification:

On page 16, please delete the formula set forth between lines 1 and 2, and insert therefor the following:



In the Claims:

Please amend claim 24 as follows:

LAW OFFICES
FINNEGAN, HENDERSON,
FARABOW, GARRETT,
& DUNNER, L.L.P.
1300 I STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20005
202-408-4000